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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### Executive Order 46

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#### **CONTINUING THE VIRGINIA BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth including, but not limited to, Chapter 1 of Title 2.2 and Section 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby continue the Virginia Biotechnology Initiative.

#### **Importance of the Initiative**

Advancements in biotechnology will have far-reaching human, environmental, and economic impacts. Virginia has many of the necessary assets and qualities that would make it an attractive location for this promising new industry of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These assets include major research universities, partner companies, medical schools, and federal and state laboratories. The Commonwealth has already invested in centers dedicated to the creation and growth of private sector companies that are developing promising new products and services to enhance human lives, improve the environment, and create new high-paying job opportunities for Virginians. The biotechnology industry also has the potential to benefit agriculture, manufacturing, and marine-based commerce.

To be competitive in growing and attracting this industry, Virginia needs a comprehensive and coordinated statewide strategy for biotechnology. I am therefore directing a joint study involving both the public and private sectors to ascertain how Virginia can become a recognized center for biotechnology comparable to the reputation the Commonwealth now enjoys in other technology sectors. I further direct the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to continue to integrate the results of this effort into the development of the economic development policy required by Section 2.2-205 of the Code of Virginia.

## **The Governor's Advisory Board**

I hereby continue the Governor's Advisory Board for the Virginia Biotechnology Initiative (hereinafter referred to as "the Board"), which shall prepare a strategic plan for making Virginia a leader among states and regions of the world in biotechnology over the course of the next decade and beyond. This Board shall be classified as a gubernatorial advisory board in accordance with Section 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia.

The Board shall have the following responsibilities.

1. Determining how Virginia's research universities, federal and state laboratories, biotechnology incubators, research parks, private industry, and other major resources can be leveraged to help make Virginia a more attractive location for the biotechnology industry, and how these resources can boost development of the industry through technology transfer and commercialization of new ideas and discoveries.
2. Assessing how a strategic initiative in biotechnology can help generate new jobs and investment in rural and urban areas of the state.
3. Determining which new industries and private sector job opportunities that Virginia is well-positioned to secure because of its workforce, location, and other advantages.
4. Examining workforce and training needs for a biotechnology workforce.
5. Investigating how a strong biotechnology industry and research capability can help Virginia protect and preserve the Commonwealth's natural resources.
6. Evaluating Virginia's competitive position compared with other states and regions in terms of leadership in biotechnology.
7. Recommending ways to enhance the research base of the Commonwealth in biotechnology, to encourage the growth of biotechnology companies, and to make Virginia a more attractive location for future investments by "life sciences" companies.

The board shall, by November 15, 2003 and thereafter as appropriate, recommend additional strategies and accompanying specific recommendations and actions for making Virginia a leader in the biotechnology industry. The strategy should identify what the Commonwealth must do in order to become a leader in biotechnology, taking into account the costs and the future benefits of any initiatives that may be recommended.

The Board shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at his pleasure. The Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the Chairman of the Virginia Biotechnology

Association shall serve as co-chairs of the Board. The Secretary of Technology shall serve as Vice Chairman. Other members of the Board shall include:

- The Secretaries of Natural Resources, Education, and Health and Human Resources;
- Three members of the House of Delegates;
- Two members of the Senate of Virginia;
- The presidents or their designees of each of the four Virginia public research universities who have joined together in the proposed “Virginia Life” initiative;
- One representative of federal laboratories in Virginia involved in research and technology transfer in life sciences;
- The directors of the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science;
- Three representatives of not-for-profit life science and research institutions and laboratories in the Commonwealth;
- Two representatives of agricultural and tobacco interests;
- The Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership;
- Two local economic development officials; and
- Three private biotechnology industry leaders.

Other members may be appointed to the Board by the Governor at his discretion. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

Staff support necessary for the conduct of the work of the Board shall be provided by the Center for Innovative Technology, the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Office of the Governor, and other such executive branch agencies as the Governor may designate.

An estimated 1,000 hours of staff time shall be needed to support the work of the Board. Direct expenditures to support the Board’s work are estimated at \$10,000.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until May 5, 2004, unless amended or rescinded by further Executive Order.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 5th day of May 2003.

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Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest:

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Secretary of the Commonwealth